



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held December 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Molina:

“During the November 18, 2003 Board meeting, we heard testimony from a foster parent regarding the Department of Children and Family Services’ (DCFS) denial of her home study. After hearing her testimony, it became apparent that existing DCFS’ policy did not require social workers to clearly explain the reasons for denial or give the foster parent an opportunity to rebut and/or provide additional information to remedy the situation. According to DCFS, while best practice suggests that staff should fully inform clients of reasons for denial and allow them to address any problems, current policy does not require such action. DCFS has reviewed its current practice and recommends changing existing policy. It is in the best interest of clients, children and the greater public to ensure that prospective parents are afforded every reasonable opportunity to seek adoption.”

Merritt Holloway addressed the Board.

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Molina and on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services was instructed to:

1. Implement the Department's suggested policy change which would require Department of Children and Family Services’ social workers to fully inform clients of reasons for the denial of home studies and allow them an opportunity to discuss and/or provide additional information;
2. Inform employees in writing of the new policy and to ensure the staff receives appropriate training;

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3. Inform the Courts of the new policy; and
4. Report back to the Board within two weeks on the status of the implementation of the new policy and employee training.

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